1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

511 of course. There is a constant shortage of consumer goods and, even if they are available, the average person cannot afford them. Manufactured goods are mostly sent to Russia. Nevertheless, recent refugees from the Estonian SSR have told that people from Russia proper like to come to Estonia and the other Baltic states because the standard of living there, despite the war devastation, is still higher than in those parts of the U. S. S. R. which have been under Soviet rule since 1918. Furthermore, the Estonians seem to be especially skilled at remaking clothing from used material or from the new material they occasionally are able to get hold of.

292 National costumes, different in pattern according to counties, are still occasionally worn in Estonia. Men's national costumes are very rare and are worn only at performances of

national dances or in theatrical productions. Except on these infrequent occasions, they are not seen, except in Setumaa and on some of the islands, where they are still being worn as everyday clothing. The men's costumes consist usually of a white shirt, vest and dark knee-pants, worn with white knee-socks and black shoes. The Estonian women wear their gaily-colored national costumes on many festive occasions, at the singing festivals, during the performance of national dances, at commemorative gatherings, etc. Women's costumes are all hand-made and therefore quite expensive. They consist usually of a hand-woven woolen skirt (frequently with colored stripes) and a white linen blouse embellished with hand-made lace and embroidery. Their costumes also have matching headdresses. Jewelry, consisting of

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

292 silver chains and brooches, is worn with the costumes, and frequently a hand-made colored belt completes the costume. The national costumes worn by present-day Estonian women are slightly modernized in style, compared to the genuine ones, but the fabrics are still hand-woven wool and white linen.

362 Housing improved remarkably during independ-
369 ence, when the land reform movement gave a great boost to the rural areas. The new smallholders thus created built new buildings for their farms which provided 33 per cent more new dwellings for the country people. In the cities the number of houses increased between two censuses (1922-34) 28 per cent, and the number of apartments 29 per cent. At the end of 1938 the increase in apartments was estimated at

11: Scheffer O-4, 5 (ca. 1660) 1704
EP4 Lapps
Letts RB4
Estonians RG-4

the Chappel, they offer a Sacrifice of Fruits and Fleſh, for the preſervation of themſelves and their Cattel, for the next Year. The whole is concluded with Feaſting, Drinking, and Quarrelling.

Their Marriage Ceremonies are much of the ſame ſtamp; for, if a Peaſant marries a Laſs out of another Village, he fetches her from thence on Horſeback, ſhe imbracing him with her right Arm. In his Hand he holds a Stick cleft at the upper end, where he puts a piece of Braſs Mony, which is given as a Reward to the Perſon who opens the Wicket, through which he paſſes. In their return, beſides a Bag-piper, Two of his neareſt Kinſmen ride before on Horſe-back, with drawn Swords in their Hands, wherewith they ſtrike twice croſſwiſe the Door, thro' which they are to enter the Houſe, where the Marriage is to be Conſummated; and as ſoon as the Bridegroom is ſeated, they fix one of theſe Swords in a Beam over his Head, to prevent Charms, as they ſay; to prevent which, the Bride alſo, as ſhe paſſes along the Road, ſcatters ſmall Pieces of Red Woollen Stuff, eſpecially near the Croſſes, where croſs-ways meet, and upon the Graves of Unbaptized Children, who are here Buried in the High-ways. The only thing moſt worth taking notice of among ſo barbarous a Race, is, That after the Bridegroom and Bride are ſet down at Table with the other Gueſts, they don't ſtay with them till the end of the Feaſt, for fear of overcharging themſelves with ſtrong Liquor, but within half an Hour after retire to the nuptial Bed, where after they have made the beſt Tryal of their mutual Strength for two Hours, they return to the reſt, and ſpend the remaining part of the Day and Night, with Eating, Drinking, and Dancing; till what with Drunkenneſs, and what with Wearineſs, they drop down upon the Floor, and ſo fall a ſleep together. If the Bride has been able to ſave a little by her Drudgery, ſhe wares upon this ſolemn Occaſion, a Necklace of thin Plates of Silver round the Neck, of the bigneſs of a Crown Piece, and one of the ſame Metal hanging down on a Chain from the Neck upon her Breaſt, of the bigneſs of a ſmall Wooden Trenchar. For the reſt, their Garments are commonly of home-made courſe Woollen Cloth, the Womens Petti Coats being like Sacks, without any Plears.

Formerly the neglect theſe miſerable Wretches ſhew of their Salvation, was in a great meaſure attributed to the

399 LE 796 794
Le E 585
Le E [534]
Le E [789]
Le E [301] [292]
Le E [291]
Le E 771 744